

NAVY MONEY BILL UP IN THE HOUSE

Representatives More Interested, However, in Base Ball Game Than the Debate.

REAL FIGHT TO COME ON THE AMENDMENTS

General Discussion Will End Tomorrow and Vote on Measure Is Expected Friday.

The naval appropriation bill, carrying \$241,000,000 and the probability of the bitterest preparedness fight in years, was taken up in the House yesterday. The mere announcement that the big row on battleships, submarines, preparedness and all the allied subjects was about to commence would seem enough to attract a large gallery and a large attendance on the floor. But the double-header at the ball park proved more enticing to Congress, and while some of the middle-west anti-preparedness speakers were straining their lungs in an effort to change a battleship to a submarine or a plowshare, empty benches echoed their words. The majority of Congress was cheering base hits. Scarcely an eighth of the membership of the House remained through the warm afternoon to listen to the debate.

However, the preparedness question has been discounted in the House, and the speeches yesterday were some extent for the record and for home consumption. The real fight comes when the bill is taken up for detailed discussion and amendments, when the republicans will seek to increase the building program and the little navy democrats endeavor to decrease it. General debate will end tomorrow about 1-30, and a vote on the entire measure is expected Friday.

Mr. Padgett Starts Debate.

Representative Padgett, chairman of the House committee on naval affairs, started the debate, with republicans sitting all around him ready to take advantage of any opening they would give.

His chance to weaken the defense of the bill, however, he parried nearly all the attacks by refusing to yield for questions. Representatives Britten of Illinois, Roberts of Massachusetts and Butler of Pennsylvania, republicans, watched every chance to interrupt. Chairman Padgett contended that the insertion of five battleships in the bill, to the exclusion of all battleships, was an economical move, and was approved by many naval experts.

"The action of the majority of the committee in inserting battle cruisers in the bill reflects upon the importance of our navy now demands that the policy of constructing battleships to the exclusion of cruisers be reversed." He read copiously from the hearings to uphold his contention on this score. In answer to a question from Representative Howard he said:

"I have heard the navy is tickled to death with the bill. I have received a note from Secretary Daniels in which he congratulated me on the magnificent work of the committee."

Bank of United States Navy.

"What rank will the United States have when this program is completed," asked Representative Fess of Ohio, assuming other nations keep to their program.

"I was talking only yesterday with Capt. Oliver, head of the naval intelligence office," said Representative Fess, "and he told me there is no information that is reliable or definite as to the naval building activities of the belligerents, or of Germany, or of Japan, or of what has or has not been done. Last September the department received word that Germany had ordered many new building battle cruisers instead of battleships, and only in the last few days this report has been confirmed. We have nineteen dreadnaughts and Germany twenty that we know of, and one we suppose she took over when it was building for another nation; and we have reports that she has built two others, of which our naval intelligence office is not sure, but believes to be probable."

Representative Padgett said the building program in the bill would be completed about 1919, and that Rear Admiral Fletcher and others had rated the United States Navy about third.

Representative Farr of Pennsylvania asked if the President had not said the United States Navy was fourth.

Representative Padgett replied the President might have said so, but if he did, the President did not know the condition of the navy at the time.

Favors Larger Program.

Representative Fess of Ohio, republican, spoke in favor of a larger program. He said the United States is sure to meet trouble at some time after the European war and must be prepared to face it. He pointed out Mexico as a danger spot.

"Mexico offers an excuse for trouble between this country and other nations," he said. "There is German, French and English property there. The time will come when foreign nations will demand indemnity for losses sustained during the Mexican trouble. Can Mexico pay? She cannot. A coal-mining strike or a slice of land will be demanded. What will we say then? Will we defend the Monroe doctrine? We will defend it or we will surrender."

Representative Hensley of Missouri made a speech advocating his proposal for a general peace conference following the close of the European war, which is included in the measure.

TROWEL CLUB OBSERVES

A PATENT OFFICE NIGHT

Organization Composed of Master Masons of Interior Department Hears Program.

Patent office night was celebrated last night by the Trowel Club at a meeting in the crystal room at the New Ebbitt House. The club is composed of members who are master Masons in the Interior Department. Edgar C. Snyder, past president of the Trowel Club, spoke on "Preparedness." He said: "It is a strong business proposition that we prepare and take care of our 10,000 miles of coast line, to say nothing of our inland possessions. We don't mean that war is coming tomorrow, but, if prepared, it probably will never come."

E. D. Schofield, Miss Ethel Garrett Johnston and Miss Edna Cordon sang.

Whiting Estes, illustrious potentate of Almas Temple, Mystic Shrine, was escorted into the dining hall by the shrine band. D. W. Edlin acted as master of ceremonies. The Trowel Club is the mother club of all Masonic clubs in the District of Columbia. It was organized in 1893.

The officers are: President, Philip M. Riefflin; president pro tem, W. T. Riefflin; secretary, George C. Bangs; treasurer, G. W. Evans; vice president, C. T. Bright; W. W. Adams, W. E. Swanton, Fred K. Sweet, D. W. Edlin, C. E. Frey, H. Harbison, D. M. Greene, Cyrus Root, W. Carson Ryan.

ALEXANDRIA AFFAIRS

School Graduation Plans Here Nearing Completion.

MANY WILL GET DIPLOMAS

Board of Aldermen Concurs in Action of Common Council on \$70,000 Bonds for Improvements.

Special Correspondence of The Star.

ALEXANDRIA, Va., May 27.—Plans for the closing exercises of the public and private schools in and near Alexandria are now being made. All take place during the coming month, and at a number of the schools elaborate programs will be given in connection with commencement.

The Episcopal High School, west of Alexandria, in Fairfax county, will hold its seventy-seventh annual commencement exercises at 10 o'clock June 1 at that institution. Diplomas of graduation will be conferred on a class of five.

The ninety-third annual exercises of the Episcopal Theological Seminary of Virginia, situated in Fairfax county, west of Alexandria, will begin the evening of June 7 with an address before the Students' Missionary Society. June 8 there will be school and alumni exercises and a large class will graduate. The exercises will end June 9 with ordination services, which will take place in the chapel of the institution.

To Hold Commencement.

St. Mary's Academy, conducted by the Sisters of the Holy Cross, will hold its commencement exercises June 13 at 4:30 o'clock in the afternoon at that institution. Members will attend mass for the alumnae at 7 o'clock that morning, and at 1 o'clock in the afternoon the alumnae will hold a business meeting. From 6 until 8 o'clock in the evening there will be a reception by the alumnae at the school.

The public schools will close June 19 and 20. June 19 will be for the closing of the schools and June 20 for the colored schools.

The Alexandria High School will hold commencement exercises June 20 at 4:30 o'clock in the afternoon at that institution. Members will attend mass for the alumnae at 7 o'clock that morning, and at 1 o'clock in the afternoon the alumnae will hold a business meeting. From 6 until 8 o'clock in the evening there will be a reception by the alumnae at the school.

Many picnics and excursions have been arranged by residents of Alexandria for the month of June. It is expected that many from here will attend the exercises at Arlington and at 4 o'clock in the afternoon the exercises at the United States national cemetery in this city.

Bank, city and government offices will suspend operations for the day at the noon hour. The public schools will have only one session Tuesday.

Board Approves Bonds.

At an adjourned meeting of the board of aldermen, held at noon today, that body concurred in the action of the common council on the ordinance to issue \$70,000 4 per cent bonds for improvements in the recently annexed territory.

The aldermen also concurred in the action of council in adopting the ordinance providing for payment for setting curb, paving of gutters and sidewalks, and also in action on the appropriation bill. Several other council measures were concurred in.

Ten applicants today took the civil service examination at the city post office for the position of clerk-carrier.

From the list of eligibles one carrier is to be chosen, together with a substitute carrier and a substitute clerk.

The new carrier will be put on delivering mail in the recently annexed territory and other parts of Alexandria.

At the annual meeting of the Alexandria High School Literary Society, which took place tonight in the Sunday school room of Trinity M. E. Church, Mr. Blewett will be awarded the gold medal. Other participants included Misses Evelyn Johnson and Katherine Henderson and Walter Barrett.

Judges of the contest were Rev. L. M. Ferguson, John M. Johnson and A. H. Thomas.

Funeral services for Henry Sampson were held this afternoon at 3 o'clock at his home, 309 South Washington street.

He was conducted by Rev. Dr. J. W. Duff, pastor of the M. E. Church, and Rev. Dr. E. B. Jackson, pastor of the First Baptist Church. Delegations of members of the various churches, the Old Fellows and Osceola Tribe of Red Men attended the funeral.

H. H. Grogan, Boy Scout commissioner for the District, said that while the Boy Scouts participate in few parades, the proposed preparedness parade is one in which it is quite fitting they should take part. He continued:

"Our motto is 'Be prepared.' We have nothing to do with the military phase of preparedness, for the Boy Scouts is not a military organization. But we favor preparedness in other lines. We believe we should prepare ourselves to be able to take care of our boys, both morally and physically."

"I feel sure that every Boy Scout in the parade will be glad to participate in the parade. We now have nearly seventy troops and should have well over 1,000 boys in line."

"In addition to participating in the parade, our scouts will be ready at all moments to render aid to any one that might be taken ill or meet with some accident. Our marching equipment prescribes a walk-out fit for every scout. We will also be prepared to render assistance to the police in maintaining order at the flag exercises to be held on the Monument grounds. Washington knows that the Boy Scouts are anxious to make themselves useful at every opportunity and to do their 'good turn' daily."

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Prof. W. H. Adams, editor of the Brunswick, Ga., Appeal, will deliver a series of lectures at Roberts Chapel and the Alfred Street Baptist Church, beginning Monday night.

John Smithfield of Cherrysdale, Alexandria county, has purchased from the Rosemont Development Company lot No. 20, block 2, section 1, Rosemont.

Edgar Warfield, Jr., adjutant of R. E. Lee Camp, Confederate Veterans, will act as aid on the staff of Lieut. Gen. J. Thompson Brown during the Confederate memorial parade in Richmond Tuesday.

Sunday Services.

Adj. W. H. Heift of the Salvation Army of Washington will preach tomorrow morning at the Second Presbyterian Church and at night at Trinity M. E. Church.

The services at the Second Presbyterian Church tomorrow night will be conducted by Rev. Oscar J. Randall of Washington.

Rev. Dr. Eugene B. Jackson, pastor, will give his presentation of the Baptist convention held recently at Asheville, N. C., at the morning services at the First Baptist Church tomorrow.

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PARADE PLANS AT CAPITAL PLAZA

Patriotic Exercises to Attend Hoisting of Flag to Apex of Shaft.

PROGRAM ON FLAG DAY AT MONUMENT GROUNDS

Preparing to Strike in Northern Russia and Toward Petrograd, Is Claim.

Details of the interdepartmental flag day celebration to be held on the terrace of the Washington Monument flag day, June 14, were made public last night by the War Department, which is in charge of the arrangements, which is composed of the chief clerks of all the executive departments.

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